

**CAROLINIAN DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
1994 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN**

by

Steven Kokkinakis,

Camille Mageau,

and

Andrew Robertson

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281**

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**JOINT NATIONAL STATUS & TRENDS/
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
ESTUARIES**

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN APPROVAL

This quality assurance project plan was developed to assure that all environmental data generated for the Joint National Status & Trends/Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program-Estuaries (NS&T/EMAP-E) are scientifically valid and of acceptable quality to achieve the program's objectives. The signatures of key technical and management personnel indicate approval or concurrence with the procedures specified in this plan. These approvals and concurrences also represent a commitment to disseminate the plan and the philosophy of total quality to all project participants.

_____ Date

Jeff Hyland, Ph.D.
Carolinian Province Manager
NOAA, Coastal Monitoring & Bioeffects Assessment Division
Charleston, SC

_____ Date

Steven Kokkinakis
Carolinian Province Quality Assurance Coordinator
NOAA, Coastal Monitoring & Bioeffects Assessment Division
Silver Spring, MD

_____ Date

Andrew Robertson, Ph.D.
Chief, Coastal Monitoring & Bioeffects Assessment Division
NOAA, Silver Spring, MD

_____ Date

J. Kevin Summers, Ph.D.
EMAP-Estuaries Technical Director
Environmental Research Laboratory-Gulf Breeze, FL

_____ Date

Linda Kirkland, Ph.D.
EMAP Quality Assurance Coordinator
EMAP Program Office, Washington, D.C.

_____ Date

Edward Martinko, Ph.D.
EMAP Director
EMAP Program Office, Washington, D.C.

State Cooperators

_____ Date

Dr. Courtney Hackney
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Department of Biology
601 South College Road
Wilmington, NC 28403

_____ Date

Dr. Amy Ringwood
S.C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Department
Marine Resources Research Institute
P.O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29412

_____ Date

Dr. James McKenna
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Marine Research Institute
100 Eighth Ave. S.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

PREFACE

This document outlines the integrated quality assurance plan for the Joint NS&T/EMAP-E monitoring activities in the Carolinian Province. The quality assurance plan is prepared following the general guidelines and specifications provided by the Quality Assurance Management Staff of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development and the guidelines provided in the draft EMAP Quality Assurance Management Plan.

The primary objective of this Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is to maximize the probability that environmental data collected by the Joint program in the Carolinian Province will meet or exceed the objectives established for data quality. The QAPP presents a systematic approach that will be implemented within each major data acquisition and data management component of the program. Basic requirements specified in the QAPP are designed to: (1) ensure that collection and measurement procedures are standardized among all participants; (2) monitor the performance of the various measurement systems being used in the program to maintain statistical control and to provide rapid feedback so that corrective measures can be taken before data quality is compromised; (3) assess the performance of these measurement systems and their components periodically; and, (4) verify that reported data are sufficiently complete, comparable, representative, unbiased, and precise so as to be suitable for their intended use. These activities will provide data users with information regarding the degree of uncertainty associated with the various components of the Joint program's data base.

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